



Working for freedom from gun violence

<http://www.coloradoceasefire.org/>

NEWS STATEMENT

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We are shocked and deeply saddened that on this the last day of 2017 a young deputy sheriff was shot and killed in Douglas County, leaving a wife and young children, and that four other deputies and two civilians were injured at the scene.

At the news conference following the tragedy, Tony Spurlock, Douglas County Sheriff, stated “We respond to every call anticipating that everyone has a gun. This is Colorado. Everybody has a gun.”

Although Colorado has been plagued by a number of mass shootings, Sheriff Spurlock could have just as easily said “This is America. We anticipate everyone has a gun.” Gun violence exists because of the plethora of guns in our communities, a threat to citizens and police officers alike.

Our peace officers should not have to face guns every time they are called to a situation. Our citizens should not need to fear that their lives, or that of a loved one, will be cut short by a shooter in the apartment next door, in the movie theatre, in our churches or schools. America is awash in guns and our citizenry suffers an inordinate number of gun deaths, including a sheriff’s deputy called out on a noise complaint.

There are many questions still to be answered about today’s shooting. During the two hours that the shooter fired off 100 rounds of ammunition, what was the state of his mind? What kind of gun was a used? An assault rifle? How many and what size were the magazines? Just why was the shooter known to a number of law enforcement jurisdictions in the metro area, as stated by Sheriff Spurlock? Was he viewed as unstable and a danger to himself or others?

Colorado has wisely implemented some gun laws to reduce gun violence, ***and a list of these is attached.***

What we don’t have, but our legislators should consider, is the Gun Violence Restraining Order (GVRO) already passed in Connecticut, California, Washington, and Oregon which allows families and police officers to place a one year restraining order on gun ownership by an individual they believe to be at a high risk of harming himself or others.

Colorado Ceasefire, an all-volunteer statewide organization, has been working for freedom from gun violence since 2000. Ceasefire initiated and was instrumental in the enactment of Colorado’s firearms laws, which include universal background checks, a ban on high capacity magazines, and relinquishment of firearms from those accused of domestic violence.

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Colorado Gun Safety Laws

Universal Background Checks (2000 amendment and 2013 law: CRS 18-12-112)

All persons who wish to buy or receive by transfer a firearm must undergo a background check through a federally licensed firearms dealer. This applies to firearms purchased at dealer, at gun show, through classified ads, on-line or through friends. There are exceptions: bona-fide gift or loan with family members, 72-hour loan. Background checks are paid for by the buyer, not the taxpayer. (CRS 24-33.5-424) (2013 law) There is no waiting period. (11 other states and DC require a waiting period for some firearms).

Prohibited Purchasers (CRS 24-33.5-424) (2000 law)

Expands federal prohibitions (felons, domestic violence misdemeanants, adjudicated mentally ill, those under domestic violence protective order, illegal immigrants, alcohol and drug abusers, dishonorably discharged and fugitives from justice) to include those "under arrest" for crimes. Extends categories of prohibited juvenile offenders. (CRS 18-12-108).

Straw Purchases (2000 law: CRS 18-12-111)

Persons who knowingly purchase or obtain a firearm for a person is ineligible to possess a firearm under federal or state law commits a felony. (penalty: 2000 law)

Juvenile Possession of Handguns

Persons who provide a handgun to a person under 18 commit a felony. (CRS 18-12-108.7) (2000 law) A person under 18 in possession of a handgun commits a misdemeanor. (CRS18-12-108.5) There are exceptions for target shooting and on family property, etc.

Domestic Violence Offenders

Persons who are under a protection order are prohibited from possessing or attempting to purchase or receive a firearm or ammunition while the protection order is in effect. (CRS 13-14- 105.5 and 18-6-803.5) Upon conviction of a domestic violence offense or imposition of a domestic violence protection order, the offender must relinquish his or her firearms and ammunition and is prohibited from acquiring firearms or ammunition for the duration of the order. (2013 law CRS 13-14-105.5 and 18-6-801)

Mental Illness Records (CRS 13-5-142 and 13-9-123)

The clerk of courts must periodically report to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) the names of persons who have been adjudicated as mentally ill. (2002 law)

High Capacity Ammunition Ban (18-12-301 to 18-12-303)

Prohibits the sale and transfer of fixed and detachable large capacity ammunition magazines designed to accept more than 15 rounds. Owners may continue to possess, but not transfer or sell, those magazines purchased before July 1, 2013. (2013 law)